

Pursuant to Ind. Appellate Rule 65(D),  
this Memorandum Decision shall not be  
regarded as precedent or cited before  
any court except for the purpose of  
establishing the defense of res judicata,  
collateral estoppel, or the law of the case.

APPELLANT PRO SE:

**CLARENCE OATTS**  
Michigan City, Indiana

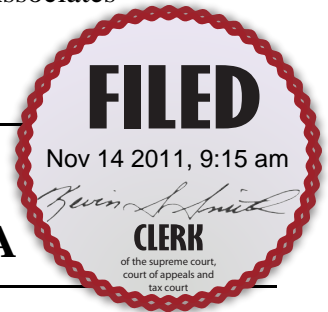
ATTORNEY FOR APPELLEE:

**YVONNE FERGUSON-WATKINS**  
Ferguson-Watkins & Associates  
Indianapolis, Indiana

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**IN THE  
COURT OF APPEALS OF INDIANA**

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CLARENCE OATTS,

Appellant-Plaintiff,

vs.

FERGUSON-WATKINS & ASSOCIATES,

Appellee-Defendant.

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No. 49A05-1009-CT-581

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APPEAL FROM THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT

The Honorable Theodore M. Sosin, Judge

Cause No. 49D02-0908-CT-38104

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**November 14, 2011**

**MEMORANDUM DECISION - NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

**MAY, Judge**

Clarence Oatts appeals summary judgment in favor of his former attorney, Yvonne Ferguson-Watkins. We affirm.

### **FACTS AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

Oatts hired Ferguson-Watkins to represent him in a criminal prosecution. After his conviction, he sued Ferguson-Watkins, claiming she had not provided him a copy of her expenditures for work she had performed and she had not returned money he paid her to hire an expert. Ferguson-Watkins moved for summary judgment, which was granted.

### **DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

Oatts brings this appeal *pro se*. *Pro se* litigants are held to the same standard as attorneys duly admitted to the practice of law and must comply with the appellate rules to have their appeal determined on the merits. *Smith v. State*, 822 N.E.2d 193, 202 (Ind. Ct. App. 2005), *trans. denied*. Generally, a party waives any issue raised on appeal where the party does not develop a cogent argument or provide adequate citation to authority and relevant portions of the record. *Id.* at 202-03. *See also* Ind. Appellate Rule 46(A)(8)(a) (stating argument section of appellant’s brief must “contain the contentions of the appellant on the issues presented, supported by cogent reasoning” and “[e]ach contention must be supported by citations to the authorities, statutes, and the appendix or parts of the Record on Appeal relied on, in accordance with Rule 22.”).

Oatts’ brief begins and ends with an explanation of our summary judgment standard of review. He makes no argument why summary judgment for Ferguson-Watkins was error, nor

does he offer any citations to the record. As Oatts offers no argument on appeal, we are unable to hold the trial court erred by granting summary judgment to Ferguson-Watkins. Accordingly, we affirm.

Affirmed.

RILEY, J., and NAJAM, J., concur.